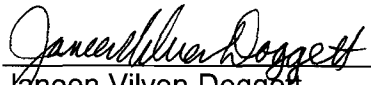


Applicant elects the claims of Group I, claims 2-9, drawn to a method of determining susceptibility to COPD using nucleic acid analysis. Therefore, claims 1-9 are requested to be examined in this application, and claims 10-19 are withdrawn. Claim 1 is generic, and links Groups I and II. When a claim generic to linked inventions is deemed allowable, the Examiner is requested to consider and allow the linked inventions initially withdrawn from consideration under the restriction requirement. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application on the remaining claims.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions or suggestions relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
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